

# SNF Project rated 'excellent' in Quality Assurance audit

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The Spent Nuclear Fuel Project has surpassed last year's performance during its 2001 Quality Assurance audit by the Department of Energy's National SNF Program Office.

In the summer of 2000, Hanford's SNF Project became the first cleanup project at Hanford to pass an audit performed to the standards of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, known as OCRWM.

The July 2001 audit rated the Fluor Hanford SNF Project's QA program "effective" in all 21 applicable criteria. A team of five auditors and one observer from the NSNFP Office spent a week at Hanford assessing areas of the Hanford program to ensure compliance with requirements for procedures, personnel training, procurement, manufacturing processes, document control, surveillance, corrective actions, test controls and other criteria.

Robert Blyth, QA manager for the National SNF Program, congratulated Keith Klein, manager of the DOE Richland Operations Office, on "a job well done." Blyth told Steve Veitenheimer, director of the DOE-RL Spent Nuclear Fuels Division, "The NSNFP [National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program] audit team was extremely impressed with...Fluor Hanford's implementation of their Quality Assurance Program."

Blyth said there were no concerns during the audit, and the audit team concluded that the Fluor Project Hanford Spent Nuclear Fuel Quality Assurance program was effectively implemented and accepted.

## Standards rigorous

Hanford's SNF Project has to meet the very prescriptive OCRWM standards because, according to DOE plans, Hanford's "product" (containers filled with dry spent nuclear fuel) will ultimately go to the geologic repository for commercial spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain, Nev. OCRWM standards are based on NQA-1 industry standards of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, which are applied to commercial nuclear power plants.

According to Ron Ruth, Fluor Hanford's QA manager for the SNF Project, "This means that our program was audited and judged according to the toughest standards imposed on SNF in this country, and we passed with no outstanding findings noted! I want to thank all SNF Project personnel who supported this NSNFP audit and to commend them for a job extremely well done."

The audit report praised the SNF QA Program, stating, "It has matured to the extent that other DOE SNF site complexes should take a proactive approach to examine, learn from and institute the philosophy of 'doing it right the first time.'"

Bob Heck, Fluor Hanford vice president for the SNF Project, added his congratulations. "The Hanford SNF Project is doing extremely challenging work that is vital to the Columbia River," he said. We must ensure it's being done to the strictest technical and quality-controls standards." ♦



Dan Truman, left, leader of the National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program, reviews spent-fuel quality assurance

## SNF Project makes steady progress

The SNF Project has now processed 22 Multi-Canister Overpacks of spent fuel, each removing about 290 fuel assemblies from the K West Basin. These fuel movements represent more than 3 million curies of radioactivity and more than 100 tons of irradiated uranium. The project expects to complete at least 25 shipments by the end of September.